

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 3, 16, and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 14, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 18-23 remain pending in the application.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection, § 103 Rejection, and Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1-2, 4, 9-10, 12, 14-16, and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Roy, U.S. Patent 5,398,161. Claims 13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roy in view of Chu, UK Patent Application GB 2328528A. The Examiner also indicated that claims 3, 5-8, 11, 17-19 and 22 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of now-cancelled claim 3. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 14 to include the features of now-cancelled claim 17 (along with intervening claim 16). Applicant therefore submits that independent claims 1 and 14 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated by the Examiner. Accordingly, removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-69500/EAH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

Respectfully submitted,



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